

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 14-19 are canceled. Claims 2 and 11 were amended. Claims 2-13 are now pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 6-9, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hung et al. (USPN 6,380,096) in view of Kim (USPN 6,686,293).

Claim 1 has been canceled. Claim 2 has been rewritten as an independent claim incorporating all of the limitations of claim 1, upon which it directly depended.

It would not be obvious to combine Hung and Kim in a manner that makes the limitation of the photoresist mask being between about 2000 Angstroms and 4000 Angstroms as recited in claims 2 and 12. The Examiner points out that Hung discloses a photoresist mask (98, Fig. 5) of 500 nm (5000 Angstroms) citing Table 4. The applicant's attorney interprets Table 4 as teaching a 600 nm photoresist thickness. Nothing in the cited references suggests going from a 600 nm photoresist thickness to a 400 nm photoresist thickness as claimed. It would not be obvious to use such a low etch selectivity between 1:1 and 2:1 with a thin photoresist mask between about 2000 Angstroms to 4000 Angstroms to etch a trench. Such a process would limit the trench depth to a thickness not made obvious by the cited art. For at least these reasons, claim 2, as amended, and 12 are not made obvious by Hung in view of Kim.

Claims 6-9, 11, and 13 are ultimately dependent on the independent claims. In addition, these claims add additional features, which when taken together with the limitations of the independent claim are not anticipated or made obvious by the cited references. For at least these reasons, claims 6-9, 11, and 13 are not made obvious by the cited references.

The Examiner objected to claim 3-5 and 10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and further stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicants' attorney appreciates the Examiner's comments. The claims will be amended accordingly, if required at a later time.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a

telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at telephone number (650) 961-3800.

Respectfully submitted,
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